

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 12897 072316Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 IO-13

TRSE-00 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05

/078 W

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R 072234Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7891

INFO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO

AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

AMCONSUL TIJUANA

UNCLAS MEXICO 12897

PASS USDA/FAS

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR MX

SUBJECT: CROP DAMAGE BY HURRICANE LIZA

REF HERMOSILLO 289

1. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BRAUER HAS CONFIRMED INFO REPORTED REFTTEL THAT SOYBEANS AND OTHER CROPS HAD BEEN HARD HIT BY HURRICANE LIZE IN SOUTHERN SONORA AND NORTHERN SINALOA. ONLY ABOUT ONE THIRD OF SOYBEAN CROP HAD BEEN HARVESTED AND LOSSES TO REMAINDER CROP WILL BE HEAVY DUE TO SHATTERING AND LODGING. SECRETARY ESTIMATED LOSSES IN SONORA 20-30,000 TONS WHICH WOULD BE ABOUT ONE THIRD OF THE CROP. DAMAGE TO THE COTTON CROP WAS REPORTED AS MINIMAL SINCE SOUTHERN SONORA HAD ALREADY BEEN HARVESTED AND THE COTTON AREA IN BAJA CALIFORNIA WAS NOT IN PATH OF THE STORM. ON THE PLUS SIDE, THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT THE HEAVY RAINS HAVE REMOVED CRITICAL CONCERN ABOUT ADEQUATE RESERVOIR SUPPLIES TO PLANT THE FALL CROPS, PRIMARILY WHEAT, SAFFLOWER AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTS.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 12897 072316Z

2. SOYBEAN CROP HAD ALREADY BEEN SHARPLY REDUCED IN NORTH-WEST BY LACK OF IRRIGATION SUPPLIES. WE HAD ESTIMATED TOTAL SOYBEAN CROP THIS YEAR PRIOR TO THE STORM AT 256,000 TONS, COMPARED WITH 625,000 TONS LAST YEAR. IMPORT NEEDS FOR 1976-77 MARKETING YEAR (OCTOBER/SEPTEMBER) WERE PROJECTED AT 450,000 TONS BUT WILL HAVE TO BE INCREASED ONCE PRECISE STORM LOSSES ARE DETERMINED. THE SECRETARY SAID THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE DAMAGE TO BEANS IN SINALOA ALTHOUGH QUALITY MIGHT BE REDUCED. HOWEVER, HE STATED THAT SOME 30,000 HECTARES OF IRRIGATED CORN HAVE BEEN BLOWN OVER AND WE FELL BEAN LOSSES WERE ALSO LIKELY. (TRADE SOURCE ESTIMATES TOTAL SOYBEAN LOSS IN BOTH STATES AT 30-40,000 TONS.) VEGETABLES HAVE JUST BEEN PLANTED AND THESE CAN PROBABLY BE REPLANTED WITHOUT MUCH DIFFICULTY.

3. CONASUPO TENDERING THIS FRIDAY FOR 30,000 TONS FO SOYBEANS AFTER JUST ANNOUNCING LAST WEEK THAT FURTHER IMPORTS WOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE DEC. 1. JOVA

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